

35 U.S.C. § 102 & 103 Rejections

Claims 6-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by *Lane, et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,141,486). Claims 19-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Lane, et al.* in view of *Shimoda* (U.S. Patent No. 5,440,345). Applicant respectfully traverses each of these rejections for at least the following reasons.

The Examiner has rejected claim 6 indicating that block 1610 is the "division number setting means for setting N sync blocks; wherein the sync blocks are related to the transport packets 1602 included in the bit stream". Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is not consistent with the Examiner's prior position. For example, the Examiner had previously characterized block 1608 of Lane as "a division number setting means responsive to a bit stream input." Accordingly, Applicant assumes that the Examiner has adopted all the previous positions in the prior Office Action, except those noted above.

Regarding block 1610, Applicant notes that block 1610 is described in Lane as follows in column 57, lines 20-40.

The track map look-up table 1610 includes a table having entries for each supported mode of trick play operation, i.e., it contains a record of the locations of all possible trick play track segments, e.g., sync blocks, contained in a track map for a particular speed and direction of tape operation supported by the VTR playback circuit 1600. For example, a track map look-up table for the track map of FIG. 17 would include entries for 9X forward fast scan tracks, 9X reverse fast scan tracks, 27X forward fast scan tracks, and 27X reverse fast scan tracks. Each of the entries would indicate the location, in terms of track number and sync block number of each trick play tape segment corresponding to one of the supported trick play track tape speeds and directions.

The track map look-up table 1610 uses the sync block number read from the tape as an index into the look up-table for the particular trick play speed and direction of user operation indicated by the user command input signal. It then generates a track number indicating the first track, in the track map to contain a sync block of the particular number being read that may contain trick play data corresponding to the selected trick play speed and direction of operation selected by the user.

It is clear from the above-cited passage that block 1610 is a look-up table that

*own 17
T 8
P. 57
spcl*

stores "a record of the locations of all possible trick play track segments". Applicant does not understand how this element can be construed to be a division setting means as alleged by the Examiner. Further, the Examiner has provided no motivation or suggestion to modify the operation of the element so as to function as alleged by the Examiner.

Further, contrary to the Examiner's statement regarding the teachings of Lane, element 1602 does not relate to the transport packets. Lane describes element 1602 at *w/ 4:6* column 55, line 66 to column 56, line 13.

The sync block header detection circuit 1602 decodes the sync block header information read from the tape as the heads 440 pass over the tape. From the header information, the sync block header detection circuit generates a track number signal indicating the track number of the sync block being read from the tape, a sync block number indicating the number of the sync block being read from the tape, a sync block signal for indicating when reading of a new sync block has commenced, a start of track signal which indicates when a sync block from a new track is being read, an end of track signal, and an enable/disable gate signal which is asserted when valid data is being read from the tape 1 and de-asserted when invalid data is being output by the heads 440, e.g., because they are not over a track segment or are over a track segment of an azimuth that is opposite the azimuth of the head trying to read the data from the tape.

As noted above, element 1602 is a sync block header detection circuit. Once again Applicant is at a loss to understand how this element can be construed to be

transport packets as alleged by the Examiner. It is clear from the above-cited passage that the sync block header detection circuit operates, as expected, to detect the sync block header. Further, as described in Lane this information is used in positioning the heads 440. Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has provided no motivation or suggestion to modify the operation of the sync block header detection circuit 1602 to achieve the functionality alleged by the Examiner.

Further, the Examiner has not even alleged that Lane discloses the claimed relationship between the sync blocks and transport packets. Lane is completely silent on the relationship between the sync blocks and transport packets, which provides an additional reason for allowance of Applicant's claimed combinations in addition to the arguments provided above.

As stated in MPEP § 2131, "[a] claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). "The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ...claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). The Lane reference applied by the Examiner neither expressly nor inherently describes every feature of Applicant's claimed combinations as detailed in the foregoing arguments. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the applied reference does not anticipate Applicant's claimed combinations as alleged by the Examiner.

Finally, the Examiner has stated in paragraph 12 of the Office Action that "on page 10 of applicant's last Remarks, applicant agrees that data amount of the extracted

data encoded data in element 406 of Lane is reduced ..." However, Applicant notes that page 10 of the prior response is the "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made". Further, Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant does not concede that element 406 of Lane teaches the data amount of the extracted encoded data in element 406 of Lane et al. is reduced to a data amount which can be recorded in sync blocks in a predetermined format as claimed in Applicant's claimed combinations. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the Examiner has misunderstood Applicant's prior arguments and position regarding the teachings of Lane et al.

Lane 1811

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103

Since the Examiner has maintained his rejection of claims 7-8 and 19-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103 as noted above, Applicants once again traverse these rejections. Applicants expressly maintain the reasons from the prior responses to clearly indicate on the record that Applicants have not conceded any of their previous positions relative the maintained rejections. For brevity, Applicants expressly incorporate the prior arguments presented in the prior responses without a literal rendition of those arguments in this response.

Further, Applicant has amended claims 6 and 7 in an effort to further distinguish Applicant's claimed combinations over the applied references in an effort to expedite prosecution.

Specifically, claim 7 has been amended to further define the decoding means and coefficient counting means, which provide additional basis for allowance of

Applicant's claimed invention in addition to the deficiencies of the applied art noted in Applicant's prior responses.

SUMMARY

For at least the foregoing reasons and the reasons set forth in Applicant's responses of March 11, 2002 and June 27, 2002, it is respectfully submitted that claims 6 and 7 are distinguishable over the applied art. The remaining dependent claims are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on the above-identified independent claims. See MPEP § 2143.01. Moreover, these claims recite additional subject matter, which is not suggested by the documents taken either alone or in combination.

CONCLUSION

All objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Mark E. Olds, Reg. No. 46,570, at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Appln. No. 09/541,088

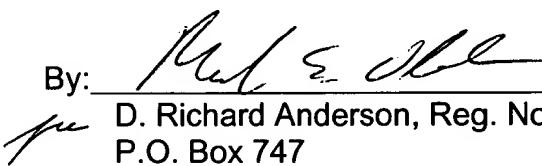
If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1. 17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH &, BIRCH, LLP

DRA/MEO

By:


D. Richard Anderson, Reg. No. 40,439
P.O. Box 747
(703) 205-8000
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747